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NEWS RELEASE

During our Presidents meeting this past weekend the Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation (NLSF) announced that it would be investing \$200,000 dollars directly into trail development and enhancements this summer. Funds will be shared equally between all clubs across the island with \$30,000 going directly into bridging materials. Through fundraising efforts and the sale of local trail enhancement stickers most clubs generally match any funds from the NLSF dollar for dollar. This means potentially \$400,000 or more could be invested in our trail systems this summer.

Investing in trail enhancements and development offers numerous benefits to snowmobilers, ATV riders, communities, or anyone using our trail system. Here are some key points that are considered during this process:

- 1. Identify Objectives:** Plans are to clearly identify our club's goals and objectives for the trail enhancements. We are aiming to increase recreational opportunities, promote tourism, and improve accessibility allowing users to enjoy what the great Newfoundland outdoors has to offer.
- 2. Assess Current Trails:** Clubs will be evaluating existing trails to determine their condition, popularity, and any areas needing improvement. Consider factors such as safety, accessibility, signage, and amenities.
- 3. Engage Stakeholders:** Plans are to involve stakeholders such as all clubs, community members, local municipalities, and trail users in the planning process. Their input can provide valuable insights and ensure that the project meets the needs of snowmobilers, ATV riders and anyone else who avails of our trail network.
- 4. Prioritize Projects:** Plans are to identify areas for enhancement based on factors such as usage patterns, popularity, environmental sensitivity, and potential for economic impact.
- 5. Consider Sustainability:** We will incorporate sustainable practices into trail design and construction to allow accessibility and early grooming during shortened winter seasons with low snow coverage as well as enable access to all ATV riders and other users.
- 6. Ensure Accessibility:** Make trails accessible to riders of all ages and abilities by incorporating features such as smooth surfaces, gradual slopes, safe bridges and accessible amenities like rest areas, tourism hotspots, accommodations, restaurants and other services such as gas stations.





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- 7. **Promote Safety:** These enhancements will ensure the safety of trail users with things such as proper signage, designated crossings, and maintenance of trail surfaces. Our goal is to provide a safe experience for all trail users.
- 8. **Monitor and Maintain:** By making trails accessible year-round we can establish a plan for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the trails to ensure they remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for snowmobilers during the winter season. As we all know regular inspections, repairs, and vegetation management may be necessary to keep the trails in good condition.

By following these steps, the NLSF and its clubs will make strategic investments in trail enhancements that benefit all trail users, the community and the environment.

With this investment, there's a substantial opportunity to make significant improvements to trail infrastructure and enhance the overall trail experience for both snowmobilers, ATV riders and all other users. This plan also demonstrates a commitment by the NLSF to improve trail infrastructure and ensure that trails meet appropriate standards to allow grooming earlier with limited snow levels and to also allow for accessibility and safety for ATV riders and other trail users.

Bob Blundon
Chair
Newfoundland & Labrador Snowmobile Federation

The NLSF provides strong leadership and support to safe, organized family-oriented snowmobiling in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador through a network of well – marked and maintained groomed trails and to promote the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador as Canada’s newest snowmobiling destination.

